Owsley, Identification of Human Remains

diaphysis of a right humerus, a left tibia with the proximal joint surface, and a proximal and middle shaft of a right tibia. Sex is based on the small size of the long bones. Age is based on the unfused proximal epiphyses of the tibiae.

NOTE: Radiography was not done due to poor condition

Nassawango

18WO23

The cremated bone in this sample represents at least three individuals whose remains are fragmented and extensively burned. The bones of these individuals are intermixed and show comparable degrees of burning and fragmentation. Their appearance suggests that they were cremated at the same time. One individual is an adolescent to young adult female, aged 13 to 24 years, identified as 18WO23-MHT-200. The second is a small child aged about 2.5 to 4 years (18WO23-MHT-195WWW), and a third individual, an infant aged 6 months to 1 year, is represented by small, thin pieces of cranial bone (18WO23-MHT-100). Feature 217 contains cranial and postcranial fragments of this infant. A fourth individual, a child aged 4 to 6 years, is recognizably distinct, and was assigned the identification code 18WO23-MHT-400. These highly fragmented, splintered remains were not burned but rather were preserved by their association with copper artifacts. This child was wrapped in some type of matting that was partially preserved by the copper salts.

Taphonomic assessment of this collection is complicated. Most of the bones are extensively burned, however, few pieces show extensive transverse cracking characteristic of inflesh cremations, and none of the bones show significant heat induced warpage. Burning the bodies helped preserve the bones, but few pieces show extreme chalky-white calcination. Many of the fragments are white in color with bluish-gray tones.

Feature 3 Lot 192A - Lot 197

This bag contains 9 small, calcined fragments of bone with a combined weight of 2.1 grams. The bones are primarily white in color, with bluish-gray tones. The largest fragment in this lot has a maximum length of 25 mm, a width of 7 mm and a thickness of 6.5 mm. Identifiable elements include two small cranial pieces, a rib fragment and a probable mandibular condyle. The condyle is small, but appears to represent an adult. One of the cranial fragments is thin and represents an infant (18WO23-MHT-100).

Feature 6C Lot 195L - Lot 271

This bag has 15.1 grams of slag-like material and 77 bone fragments with a combined weight of 8.5 grams. The bag consists primarily of cramal fragments however, there are a few

long bone and rib fragments represented. The majority of the fragments are calcined, and are characterized by a white color, with bluish-gray tones. Several cranial fragments are present. These fragments are thin and the sutures indicate that at least one subadult is represented.

Feature 6C Lot 195M - Lot 272

This bag contains 1.0 grams of black, slag-like material, and approximately 30 tiny and small pieces of bone with a combined weight of 7.4 grams. The largest piece is a cranial bone fragment of a small child. This piece measures 40 mm by 39 mm, and has a thickness of 2.8 mm. Also present is a small piece of joint surface (possibly distal femur) and adhering cancellous bone of an adolescent or adult. This piece measures 29 mm by 19 mm. The majority of the elements are calcined, and are characterized by white and bluish-gray tones.

Feature 135 Test Area 2 - Lot 218

This bag holds 36 calcined fragments of bone with a combined weight of 7.2 grams. The elements are tiny with the largest having a maximum length of 15.5 mm. The majority of the elements are white in color and have bluish-gray tones. Also included is a nonhuman vertebra. All human elements are long bone fragments.

Lot 1950 - Lot 262

This bag has 57 bone fragments with a combined weight of 9.1 grams. This bag contains primarily fragments of postcranial skeleton. The one cranial fragment that is represented in this bag has open sutures. This fragment measures 13.6 mm by 8 mm, and has a thickness of 3.4 mm, a size consistent with a young child. The majority of the elements are calcined, and are white to bluish-white in color, although many of them are brown. Not all of the elements are human. There is a vertebra of the same small animal represented in feature 135, Test Area 2.

Feature 6 Lot 195 D-Lat 263

In this bag are approximately 68 fragments of human skeletal elements with a combined weight of 11.5 grams. The elements are calcined and characterized by a white or bluish-gray color often stained by soil. Cranial and postcranial elements are included in this bag. The diaphyses shows mosaic cracking, indicating the application of heat to the elements while they were still fleshed. Cranial fragments represent an adolescent or young adult, as the cranial sutures are open and the cancellous bone is dense. Identifiable postcranial elements include the radius and ulna. These segments are 20 to 21 mm in length and represent about half the circumference of each bone. Their size and the thickness of the cortical bone (2.3-3 mm) indicates that the skeleton is small.

Feature 6A Lot 1951 - Lot 269

This bag contains 36 fragments of bone having a combined weight of 10.5 grams. All of the elements show exposure to heat and most are white and calcined. Only five of the fragments show discoloration from smoke. The largest piece is a cranial fragment that measures 26 mm by 22 mm, with a thickness of 4.3 mm. A rib fragment measures 20 mm in length, with a thickness of 5.5 mm, and a vertical height of 7.4 mm. These two elements represent a child.

This bag contains 9.5 grams of calcined bone fragments. The majority of the fragments are white in color, with a fewer number showing gray to grayish-blue tones. All of the fragments are very small, with the largest having a maximum length of 17 mm and a width of 6 mm.

Feature 4 Lot 193-10+193

Included in this bag are 19.3 grams of calcined bone fragments. The color of the fragments ranges from white to grayish blue. The cortical surfaces of many of the fragments show a mosaic pattern of cracking, indicating that the bones were subjected to heat while still fleshed.

This bag contains eight, tiny bone fragments having a combined weight of 0.3 grams. The fragments are calcined, and are characterized by either a white, or bluish-gray color.

This bag contains 42.3 grams of calcined bone. Included are a number of infant cranial and postcranial bones. This individual was assigned number 18WO23-MHT-100.

Feature 6 Lot 195g - Lot 266

Included in this bag are 16.1 grams of calcined bone and three pieces of black, slag-like material. Several of the bone fragments represent the cranium, including one piece of posterior temporal. The two largest pieces measures 25 mm by 22 mm, and 27 mm by 21 mm. The bones seem consistent in composition. The size of some of the fragments suggests that they are from an adolescent or young adult. The small amounts of cranial suture present are open.

Feature 6 Lot 195H -Lot 267

In this bag are 26.8 grams of calcined bone fragments which range in color from white to bluish-gray. Some of the fragments represent an infant, but pieces from an older individual are

also present including a partial petrous temporal. The largest cranial bone fragment present measures 24 mm by 18 mm with a thickness of 3 mm. Several small pieces of cranial bone have open sutures. Tiny fragments of slag-like material are also included.

These are eight tiny fragments of calcined bone with a combined weight of 0.7 grams.

These are four tiny fragments of calcined bone weighing 0.8 grams.

These are six small fragments of calcined bone weighing 0.6 grams.

This vial of calcined bone fragments, weighing 19.1 grams, was included in a bag with lot numbers 170, 147 and 406. The color of these fragments ranges from white to bluish gray. The largest cranial vault fragment measures 23 mm by 20 mm. The size of the fragments indicates an age of adolescent or young adult. One tubular bone fragment is present from either the humerus, radius, or ulna. This piece has a cortical thickness of 4 mm.

This bag contains 137.5 grams of fully calcined bone. These fragments range in color from gray-black to pale gray. Both cranial and postcranial elements are represented. Four incomplete tooth roots are present, and the crowns of these teeth have been destroyed by heat damage. The small size of the tooth roots and the presence of frontal bone fragments with sharp supraorbital rims, identify this individual as a female. There is no thickening of the zygomatic processes of the frontal bone. The left maxillary tooth sockets (from I1 to M1) indicate apex complete development. Two single rooted teeth, and the single roots of at least two molars are present. Size differences in the roots of the molars suggest that they are either M1 and M2, or M2 and M3. Tooth development is apex complete, suggesting a lower age of at least 13 years. Canine development is also complete. The largest cranial piece measures 54 mm in length by 31 mm in width, and has a height of 4 mm. The cranial sutures are open. Few pieces of identifiable long bones are present.

Included in this bag are 52.4 grams of calcined cranial and tiny postcranial fragments of a small child aged 2.5 to 4 years. Present are two incomplete deciduous molar roots and the crown

of a maxillary first premolar. The second premolar is stage crown %. Included is a fragment of ulna that measures 43 mm in length, and a humerus fragment measuring 50 mm in length.

18WO23-MHT-400 - Lo+ 281 Feature 6, Lot 195V, Burial 4

This bag contains 14.6 grams of bone fragments stained bright green and brown. The majority of the elements have been reduced to tiny splinters of bone. The tag included with the remains is labeled "left upper arm and scapula." The only recognizable element in this bag is a fragment of the lateral scapula containing the glenoid. The glenoid is very small and represents a young child, possibly in the 3 to 6 year range. The other fragments appear to represent long bones, possibly the humerus, radius and ulna. None of the bones are burned.

Feature 6, Lot 195N/R (?), Burial 4 - Lots 273 + 277

This bag contains 20.3 grams of tiny bright green bone fragments and brown, woven organic material. This bag contains two labels, one reads "Lot 195N, unidentified long bones" and the other reads "ribs and scapula, right side, Lot 195R." The largest piece of bone, likely the middle third of a radius, measures 49 mm in length and has a transverse (medial-lateral) width of 12 mm, and a height (anterior-posterior) of 7 mm. The size of the bone suggests an age of 4 to 6 years. Seven copper beads are included with the remains. There are two groups of three circular beads, and a single bead. The groups of three beads have oxidized and formed concretions that have united them. The strand has been preserved by the copper salts. Many of the elements are surrounded by a dark-colored organic material. This substance appears to represent a mat wrapped around the individual prior to interment. This organic material was preserved by the copper salts.

Feature 6, Lot 195R, Burial 4 - Lot 277

This bag contains 10.7 grams of bright green copper stained bone splinters, fourteen rib fragments and a scapula fragment. Identifiable rib fragments include sections of the right second, third and fourth ribs, and the left first and third, fourth and fifth ribs. The tag included with the remains is labeled "ribs and scapula, right side." The ribs and scapula are small and represent a child, 4 to 6 years of age.

Feature 6, Lot 195 T, Burial 4 - Lot 279

This bag contains 3.7 grams of bright green copper stained bone splinters. The tag included in the bag is labeled "left arm." Included in this bag is a piece of diaphysis measuring 30 mm in length.

Feature 6, Lot 195W, Burial 4 - Lot 282

This bag contains 12.7 grams of bright green copper stained bone fragments and bone splinters. The bag included with the remains is labeled "lower vertebrae." The only identifiable elements are the centra of two lumbar vertebrae, a costal end rib fragment and a partial sacral segment. All of these elements are small and represent a child. The endplate on the sacral segment is billowed. Brown-colored organic material adheres to some of the bones.

Feature 6, Lot 1958, Burial 4 - Lot 278

This bag contains 2.4 grams of bright green copper stained bone splinters. The splinters are tiny and no elements are recognizable. The tag included in the bag is labeled "pelvis?" This identification cannot be confirmed.

Feature 6, Lot 195Q, Burial 4 - Lot 276

In this bag are 40.7 grams of bone splinters, 29 rib fragments and a fragmented transverse process of a thoracic vertebrae. The label with the remains states "ribs-left side." The elements are stained bright green, and a dark wood-like material adheres to the remains. This may represent a bark mat in which the body was wrapped. The ribs are small and represent a child about 4 to 6 years of age.

The elements contained in this bag have a combined weight of 32.4 grams. Included are fragments of several thoracic vertebrae, five of which are relatively complete. These five are in the T1-9 range. The pedicles are fully united with the centra. The size of these vertebrae is consistent with a child 4 to 6 years of age. Five rib heads and necks are also present. The skeletal elements are stained bright green.

Heater Farm

Bob Harris Farm, Loudoun County, Virginia

44LO9001-FOUT-16A

Box 3302, Lot 16, Acc #C1993.033

Present are the remains of a female aged 25 to 34 years (code 23). A small note with the remains records the location of recovery as the Heater Farm site, Point of Rocks, Maryland, with the specific location identified as "thirty paces south of the end of the old stone fence." (However, we were told that the Heater Farm site is in Virginia). Found with this burial are twelve turtle carapace fragments and two kaolin pipe fragments.

This individual is represented by a partial cranium that is missing the right temporal, sphenoid, left malar, and basilar portion of the occipital bone. The cranium has been partially reconstructed.

There is weathering and erosion of the right and posterior surfaces of the vault. Dark stains are present on the occipital and posterior parietals. Deterioration of the exterior bone surface indicates that the head rested on its right side.

Cranial morphology:

The cranial form is mesocranic. The frontal has slight development of the supraorbital ridges, the left mastoid is small and there is trace development of a supramastoid crest. The nuchal area is defined, but there is no development of an occipital protuberance. The specimen is incomplete and a limited number of measurements were taken.

Dentition:

Most of the maxillary teeth are present in their sockets. Teeth missing postmortem include the lateral incisors and the right third molar. Both central incisors have mesial surface interproximal cavities. Dental attrition is slight. Moderately heavy calculus is present on the buccal surfaces of the left first and second molars. This feature is associated with slight overeruption of the first molar. Although not available for examination, the mandibular first molar likely had been lost antemortem.

The left maxillary central incisor has two hypoplastic lines, located 1.6 mm, and 2.9 mm from the CEJ. The second line is more pronounced. The left maxillary canine has a distinct line located 3.6 from the CEJ.

Pathology:

The eye orbits are scored for slight cribra orbitalia. The parietals have slight ectocranial porosis. Bony spicules are present in the floor of the left maxilla suggesting sinusitis. This is scored as slight, healed periostitis. The posterior right parietal has a small, healed, oval-shaped depression fracture. This defect measures 15 mm by 4 mm.

The endocranial surface exhibits extensive porosity, deeply defined grooves for the meningeal arteries and numerous fine etchings on the parietals and the frontal bone. These features are anomalous and suggest the possibility of an infection such as meningitis.

Photography:

Endocranium to show marked vascularity Cribra orbitalia

TABLE 1 CON'T.

COMPID	<u>SEX</u>	AGE	RACE	COMMENTS
18WC70-MHT-300	Male	20 - 29	Indeterminate	
18WC99-MIIT-100	Female	35 - 49	White	Machine-made coffin nails and coffin wood are present
18WC99-MIIT-200	Female	14 - 17	Indeterminate	
18WO23-MIIT-195WWW	Indeterminate	2.5 - 4	Indeterminate	Calcined bone
18WO23-MHT-100	Indeterminate	6 months - 1yr.	Indeterminate	·
18WO23-MIIT-200	Female	Young Adult	Indeterminate	
18WO23-MHT-400	Indeterminate	4 - 7	Indeterminate	Green staining
44LO9001-FOUT-16A	Female	25 - 34	Native American	12 turtle carapace and 2 kaolin pipe fragments recovered with this burial
44LO9001 -FOUT-16B	Male	30 - 44	Native American	
Maryland Academy of Sciences (not entered into database):				
MAS #1	Female	30 - 50	Possibly Hispanic	
MAS#2	Male	30 - 39	Indeterminate	
MAS #3	Probable female	11 - 15	Indeterminate	
MAS #4	Indeterminate	7 - 10	Indeterminate	
MAS #5	Male	40 - 60	Native American	
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